

Residents approve bond issue, elect councilors

Residents of Broken Arrow have approved the entire list of projects outlined on the April 5 bond ballot.

The list includes arterial and subdivision street work, flood control measures, parks and public safety improvements. Due to previous bond debt retiring, the passage of

this four-year bond will not result in any tax increase for the residents of the city.

“We put together this package based on residents input and are thrilled the voters approved,” says BA Mayor Mike Lester. “With the approval of this bond issue, crucial areas in need of improvement will

be addressed.”

In addition, voters re-elected incumbents Mike Lester and Jill Norman to the City Council. Johnnie Parks was also elected to the At-Large ward to fill the position J. Wade McCaleb served in for 12 years.

He did not seek re-election.

VanDolah begins as Fire Chief

After an extensive and competitive recruiting process, Jeff VanDolah has been named Fire Chief for the City of Broken Arrow. VanDolah assumed the leadership position April 4.

VanDolah, who most recently has served as Assistant Fire Marshal in Investigations with the Tulsa Fire Department, brings more than 25 years of experience to Broken Arrow. He began his career in 1984 with the Broken Arrow Fire Department.

“I am a long-time resident of Broken Arrow and I love this community. I am thrilled to be able to finish my career in a city I care so much about,” VanDolah said. “I am also excited about leading this department. We have many great things ahead of us and I am happy to be a part of it.”

VanDolah’s job responsibilities during his career have included all aspects of fire operations, emergency medical services and arson investigations.

He serves on several labor/management committees and is the past president and current board member of the Oklahoma Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. He is also an instructor at both the National Fire Academy and Tulsa Community College in the area of fire investigations.

“Chief VanDolah is the best person to command the Broken Arrow Fire Department during this critical time in its history,” said City Manager Dave Wooden. “He has the vision and abilities to give the department a new direction and new challenges.”

VanDolah has a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tulsa Law School.

VanDolah’s wife, Carol, his son, Spencer, and daughter-in-law, Libby, are all teachers in the Broken Arrow Public School district.



Mayor Mike Lester administers the Oath of Office to Fire Chief Jeff VanDolah. VanDolah assumed leadership of the department April 4.



Web site receives transparency award

The city of Broken Arrow's Web site recently received a "Sunny Award" which awards state and local government grades on the subject of Web site transparency.

"When we received a C grade in March of 2010, we took it upon ourselves to make sure our Web site was above transparency standards," said City of Broken Arrow's Director of Communications Stephanie Higgins. "We took a good, hard look in 2010 and made the necessary changes. Our goal is for our residents to know what's going on within their government."

The award recognizes the best state and local government Web sites in America that exceeded transparency standards.

The Sunny Awards announcement precludes the launch of "Sunshine Week," a



period nationally recognized by hundreds of media and civic organizations, that celebrates the efforts of activists and the strides taken towards open government.

"Sunny Award winners deserve recognition for making information available to citizens and for setting a transparency standard that all governments can, and should, meet," said Mike Barnhart, President of Sunshine Review. "Access to information empowers every citizen to hold government officials accountable. Official accountability is the cornerstone of self government and liberty."

Digital Annual Report saves thousands in printing costs

The city of Broken Arrow has published its 2010 Annual Report. For the second year, the report is a digital version and can be found at www.brokenarrowok.gov.

The city has made a conscious effort to cut costs over the past several years while offering residents services they are accustomed to.

"We have looked at many ways to cut expenses," said Director of Communications Stephanie Higgins. "Not only does producing the Annual Report digitally save thousands of dollars, it's also a way for us to become more environmentally friendly."

The annual report contains information on city departments, City Council and financial data.

A limited number of reports were printed.

If residents would like a copy, visit the City Hall receptionist area.

Requests for reports to be mailed can be made by contacting City Hall at 259-2400.

Ozone Alerts begin during summer months

Ozone Alerts are designed to help keep the area within the Environmental Protection Agency's air-quality standards.

Last year, Tulsa had 11 Ozone Alert days, with the first on June 24 and the final one on Aug. 25.

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality offers the following tips for helping control Ozone levels on Ozone Alert days:

- Leave your car at home. Walk, bike, carpool, ride the bus or telecommute.
- Avoid long idle times. Walk in rather than drive through.
- Postpone refueling. Wait until evening or not at all.
- Postpone mowing and using other gas-powered lawn tools
- Postpone errands. Do them another day.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR JUNE 15-JULY 15

Now-June 21 — Broken Arrow Youth Football Online registration begins. Pre-Season registration fee is \$165 if registered by June 21. After June 21st, the regular season fee of \$185 will apply. Call 251-1015, Ext. 240 or visit www.bayouthfootball.com for more information.

Ongoing — Broken Arrow Youth Cheer Sign-up Online registration begins. Grades 1-7. Fitting dates will be May 21 & 28. Date of first practice will be July 18. Camp dates are as follows: 3rd-7th grades - Aug. 1-5. For more information, please contact the office at 251-1015, Ext. 300 or visit www.bayouthfootball.com.

June 18 — Broken Arrow Farmers Market 8 a.m.-noon, 418 S. Main St. **Free and open to the public.**

June 20 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

June 21 — Tuesdays in the Park 7 p.m., Central Park, 1500 S. Main St. Presented by the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities

Council. Bring lawn chairs, picnic baskets, blankets and enjoy musical entertainment. Concessions available. Entertainment: CJ Greco (Country). **Free and open to the public.**

June 23 — Broken Arrow Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

June 25 — Broken Arrow Farmers Market 8 a.m.-noon, 418 S. Main St. **Free and open to the public.**

June 25 — Blue Bell Taste of Summer 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Blue Bell Creameries, 8201 E. Hwy. 51. The annual Community Open House hosted by one of Broken Arrow's favorite and best-known businesses. All the ice cream you can eat. Jupiter Jump for the kids, ice cream eating contest, live entertainment, plant tours and much more.

June 28 — Tuesdays in the Park 7 p.m., Central Park, 1500 S. Main St. Presented by the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council. Bring lawn chairs, picnic baskets, blankets and enjoy musical entertainment. Concessions available. Entertainment:

Spectrum and Starr Fisher (jazz). **Free and open to the public.**

July 2 — Broken Arrow Farmers Market 8 a.m.-noon, 418 S. Main St. **Free and open to the public.**

July 3 — Rockets Over Rhema 5-10 p.m., Rhema Bible Church, 1025 W. Kenosha St. **5 p.m. - Patriotic tribute; 6 p.m. - outdoor activities begin; 6:30 p.m. - outdoor concert; 10 p.m. - fireworks. Free and open to the public.**

July 4 — City offices closed for Fourth of July holiday.

July 5 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

July 9 — Broken Arrow Farmers Market 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., 418 S. Main St. **Free and open to the public.**

July 14 — Broken Arrow Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.